

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 5, beginning at line 5 and ending at line 16 with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

In the preferred embodiment, the locking means 8 includes an arm in the form of a curved rack 10, one end of which is fixed to an end of the arm 2 by a pivot 12. A toothed outer edge of the rack 10 engages a driving pinion 13 <sup>[[14]]</sup>, rotatably mounted at the end of the other arm 4. The pinion 13 <sup>[[14]]</sup> is associated with a ratchet and pawl mechanism having a first “ratchet” state in which rotation of the pinion 13 <sup>[[14]]</sup> in only one direction is allowed such that only opening movement of the arms 2, 4 is possible. A second “free” state allows both opening and closing movement of the arms 2, 4. The state of the mechanism can be changed by switching of a pawl release. The pinion 13 <sup>[[14]]</sup> is drivable by means of a crank handle in order to open the arms 2, 4 and hence to open the incision. The crank handle is detachable from the pinion to reduce interference during surgery. Reference should be made to our earlier International patent application for full details of the pivot and also of a rack and pinion drive assembly.